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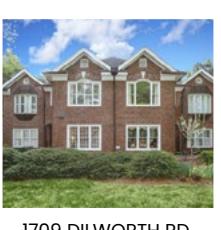
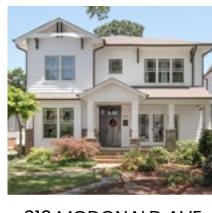


December 2021

# Dilworth Quarterly

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## Don't Miss

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**Page 2**

Missing Mr. K's. **Page 4**

Meet Darren "Jaz" Vincent. **Page 9**

Fiamma Ristorante celebrates 15 years in Dilworth. **Page 10**

Read what Dilworth Soup Kitchen Volunteers have to say. **Page 13**

Making historic homes energy efficient. **Page 17**

Volunteers make Latta park more appealing.

**Page 21**

Dilworth Dragons back in the swing of things.

**Page 22**

Plenty to do at Tom Sykes. **Page 24**

Still time to get in on Share the Shade. **Page 27**

Are you the next Editor of Dilworth Quarterly?

**Page 31**



Photo by Demi Mabry.

## Hey Neighbor! Have You Seen Our House?

By Mandi Browning

The story of Hospitality House of Charlotte dates back to 1985 when a group of physicians' spouses noticed a great need within their community. After surveying local medical staff, it was evident that the families of patients they served needed care too. Those who were far from home were sleeping uncomfortably in patients' rooms, in hospital waiting rooms, or in their vehicles to be at their loved ones' sides.

With southern hospitality in their hearts and the help of others in the community, the group purchased a home on Scott Avenue. When the need for our services outgrew that house's

14 available beds, a new facility was built to consider not only family members but also medically stable patients who need to remain close to their care. Today, we are located just yards away from the original house and can accommodate up to 80 guests each night. Our roots in Dilworth have remained intact and our 20-bedroom facility continues to address the needs that our founders observed.

Hospitality House of Charlotte's priority is to provide comfort and support to families and patients coming to the region for cancer, transplant, traumatic injury, or other serious conditions.

continued on page 6

## Table of Contents

- 4 Missing Mr.K's  
9 Neighbor To Know  
10 Dilworth Eats  
13 Dilworth Soup Kitchen  
17 Historic District Commission  
19 Did You Know?  
20 Neighborhood Environment  
22 Our Kids  
24 Tom Sykes Recreation Center  
27 Home & Garden  
28 Dilworth Cares  
31 We Want You!



## The Dilworth you know didn't just happen. It was planned.

In the late 1800s, Edward Dilworth Latta envisioned a "City of Avenues" with gridded streets around a water-filled Latta Park encircled by a grand boulevard.

The first Dilworth planners paved the way for continued changes over the years. In 2022, planning will accelerate dramatically. City Council approved a new comprehensive plan this summer, known as the 2040 Plan. The first draft calls for a Dilworth to look much different along its edges and a little at its core. This process includes rezoning every property (including yours) by the end of next year.

**The new plan divides Charlotte into "areas" instead of neighborhoods - applying a city-wide planning formula to our unique Dilworth neighborhood.** It is critical Dilworth residents make our voices heard and engage in the process.

It starts and ends with transit. Edward Latta brought the streetcar to Latta Park in 1891. The six-minute ride from the heart of the city brought potential residents, the eye of local industrialist D. A. Tompkins, his Atherton Mill village, and the years of prosperity that followed, to Dilworth.

On March 14, 1938, rails gave way to paved streets and gasoline engines as the city's last streetcar headed to the Dilworth car barn for retirement. A decade later, Dilworth's fortunes began to decline. The neighborhood planned for people and transit was now "too dense" and "too close to town" for modern suburbanites. The City turned its planning efforts to the "new suburbs." By the early 1960's, some areas of Dilworth were on the Bond vote for urban renewal and the City zoned many of the homes in the area to office and other uses.

Charlotte continued focusing on the suburbs in the late 1960's, but a counter-trend was already developing. The inner-city's graceful old neighborhoods were attracting a broad spectrum of



Franklin Keathley  
DCA President

## Deadline for Next Issue:

### Ads: January 15

If you are interested in advertising in the Quarterly, email Mary Beth Sensabaugh at [msensabaugh@carolina.rr.com](mailto:msensabaugh@carolina.rr.com). Rates and sizes can be found on [dilworthonline.org](http://dilworthonline.org).

### Articles: January 22

Articles and ads received after the deadline may be held for a later issue.

Dilworth Quarterly is written by volunteers and published under the direction of the Dilworth Community Association. It is mailed four times per year to nearly 6000 households and businesses in the Dilworth community. While we make every reasonable effort to verify the integrity of our advertisers, we do not endorse products or services unless specifically stated.

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## DCA Board Meetings

*Stay tuned via Dilworth Express*  
DCA Board Meetings are open to the public, 6:30pm,  
the first Wednesday of the month at the  
Tom Sykes Recreation Center, with time allotted for Q&A.

## Dilworth Quarterly Staff

Nikki Campo + Tom Ferber Co-Editors  
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### Thanks to this issue's writers:

Cindy Kochanek	Mandi Browning
Franklin Keathley	Mark I. West
Gary Klasen	Nancy Nicholson
Jenny Morton	Rebecca Crawford
Laurel Nakkas	Shauna Powell
Liz Lewis	Tom Ferber

# Missing Mr. K's Soft Ice Cream

By Mark I. West

Shortly after I moved to Dilworth in the early 1980s, I became a fan of Mr. K's Soft Ice Cream.

Since its location on the corner of South Boulevard and McDonald Avenue is just a few blocks from our home, we often went there on muggy summer nights to cool off some of their delicious soft ice cream. My wife would always get a medium soft serve cone with vanilla dipped in their butterscotch topping.

I always worried when the person behind the counter turned the cone upside down to dip it. It looked to me like the ice cream would fall out of the cone disappear into the butterscotch topping, but it never did.

Our son and I usually ordered sundaes topped with hot fudge sauce. Sometimes we would eat dinner there, too, but no more. Mr. K's closed on March 5, 2021, and we miss it.

Our dog misses Mr. K's, too. Nearly every day the two of us would walk by Mr. K's on our many strolls through the neighborhood, and we would often run into the owner, George Dizes, during our walks. George sometimes put out pieces of day-old hotdog buns for the neighborhood birds, but our dog decided that George really intended to give these pieces of hotdog buns to her and not the greedy birds.

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Photo by Gavin West.



Photo by TM Petaccia.

As I turned the corner and headed home, I had mixed emotions. I felt happy for George. I knew that he was looking forward to his retirement. However, I felt sad that Mr. K's was closed for good.

With the closing of Mr. K's, Dilworth has lost a link to its history. Mr. K's opened for business in August 1967 when Theodore Karres (also known as Mr. K) started the business.

He retired in 1996, and his daughter Pamela and her husband George ended up taking over the running of Mr. K's. During George's twenty-five years with Mr. K's, he added some menu options, such as their garden burger and their sweet potato fries, but he never changed the basic character of the place.

Even when the rest of the culinary world jumped on the frozen yogurt bandwagon, Mr. K's continued to serve their legendary soft ice cream.

With all of the changes that have taken place in Dilworth and South End in recent years, I always found it reassuring and comforting that Mr. K's stayed true to its original identity over the course of its fifty-four-year history.

For me and for so many others, Mr. K's played the role of a friendly and dependable neighbor. Mr. K's was not just a place where one could get an ice cream cone or a quick meal. It was a Dilworth landmark.

My thanks go to George and everyone associated with Mr. K's for adding so much to the experience of living in Dilworth. ■



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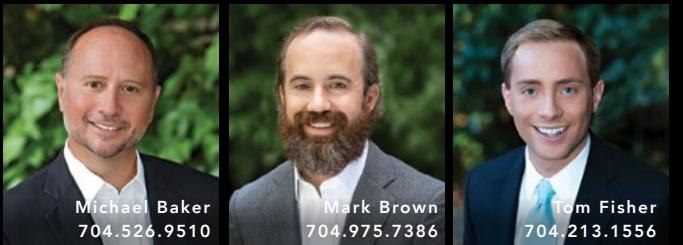
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## Hospitality House

continued from Front Page

The financial strain of a medical crisis often determines whether a patient is able to seek adequate treatment. Last fiscal year, our nominal \$45 nightly rate saved our guests more than \$900,000 that would have been spent on lodging while in Charlotte receiving life-sustaining care.

Since our founding, Hospitality House of Charlotte has welcomed over 74,000 guests from 49 states and 37 countries, and we continue to exceed the number of guests we serve each year. We are honored to be here for our guests 365 days a year during their time of need.

A guest recently shared with us, *"To begin with, I stayed at a motel downtown and I just did not feel safe or secure there. Then, they told me that there was a place at Hospitality House, and I knew nothing about it, but as soon as I got here, there was peace. I now call this place my home away from home because I feel so safe and comfortable. It is a miracle; I love this place."* – Peggy, previous guest.

Stories like this humble our hearts and drive our mission. What we do at Hospitality House would not be possible without faithful and unwavering donors.

*"I support HHOC because they provided a tremendous service to my family. Being able to support a cause where you can see immediate benefit is an awesome thing. I want to help the next family in need."* – Bryan, liver transplant recipient / HHOC donor.

As of 2020, 40% of all our guests traveled from more than 100 miles away. Some families are coming for scheduled procedures, while others are coming due to an emergency. No matter their crisis, being in close proximity to local hospitals is imperative for them.

We are right across the street from Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, host to the region's only Level I Trauma Center, and within a 2-mile radius of more than 9 hospitals and treatment facilities, including the Levine Cancer Institute (LCI), Hemby Children's Hospital, and Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center. These exemplary medical facilities are not only home to world-class medical staff but located in Dilworth's own backyard. Many of our guests come from rural communities where this privilege does not exist. However, welcoming them into Dilworth and Hospitality House means they not only have a newfound access to critical treatment but access to a place that feels like home.

With the growth of the medical community in Charlotte and a lack of affordable lodging near the hospitals, the need for our programs is at an all-time high. Staying at Hospitality House means warm showers, freshly cooked meals, and a comfortable place to find rest. Our guests are ordinary people caught in



Hospitality House Guest Room. Photo by Demi Mabry.



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extraordinary circumstances. These are situations any of us could be found in. We believe in treating our guests with respect and dignity while also offering community and encouragement.

*"I didn't feel comfortable going three hours back home while we were waiting for all of the tests, so Hospitality House was the next best thing. If we weren't here, we would have to go back and forth, and that would be very difficult and tiring."* – Kristina, previous guest.

It is not just our zip code and convenient location that makes Hospitality House so special. Being surrounded by kind neighbors and a community that has a heart for our mission makes all the difference. Hospitality House is a place of peace and healing where families and patients can gather as they recover from trauma. Being in the heart of Dilworth helps make our house a home.

*"It is the simple acts of kindness that are remembered when a family is dealing with a medical crisis, like having someone listen after a long day at the hospital, having a warm meal, clean towels for a nice shower, or doing a load of laundry. These things sound so simple but they mean so much to the HHOC guests every day."* – Marlene, HHOC volunteer.

Visit [hospitalityhouseofcharlotte.org/virtual-tour/](http://hospitalityhouseofcharlotte.org/virtual-tour/) for a virtual tour or stop by anytime for an in-person tour and learn more about HH and how you can help support our mission. ■

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# Neighbor To Know

## Meet Darren "Jaz" Vincent - Owner, Red@28th

By Tom Ferber

In 1987, Susan Jeffers published, *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway*. Years later, in what became a life-changing experience, a copy made it into the hands of Darren "Jaz" Vincent. Growing up in Niagara Falls, NY, books were not an important part of life. His Niagara Falls neighborhood was not the idyllic national park most envision. It was a tough neighborhood Darren described as "*a dark place*."

After reading Jeffers' book, Darren realized books were the gateway to knowledge. It kicked off his journey of promoting literacy. Bringing his passion to others became a driving force.

After moving to Charlotte he opened his first bookstore in NoDa near 28th Street. He organized the Charlotte Literary Festival and sought to share the wisdom he had gained: ***books can change the trajectory of your life.***

By his own account, Jaz felt like the Literary Festivals were not successful. They would attract people who already discovered the value of having books in their lives. Jaz wanted to promote literacy in the community for folks who were not already readers. His Literary Festival attracted the award winning poet Nikki Giovanni who would ultimately become an ally and inspiration.

Nikki told Jaz whenever he needed it, she would be there to help at a moment's notice. She then introduced him to a Washington DC area bookstore called "Busboys and Poets." Calling it a bookstore is a bit of a misnomer though. Yes, they had books, but what they really were about was fostering community. Their website describes the location as "...*a place to take deliberate pause and feed your mind, body and soul.*"

Literacy and community became the winning combination and inspiration for the next evolution. A slight modification of the word "Read" and a call out to the location of his first bookstore in NoDa, and Red@28th was born. The original location is now closed but the story continues in Dilworth at 1315 East Blvd. A second location quickly followed in Greenville, and a third location is coming soon in the University area.



Jaz has written his own books. *Confessions of a Thug and a Gentleman* was published in 2015. It is an autobiography chronicling his journey from The Falls in NY. He also published a children's book that encourages kids to think about what they want to be when they grow up, how they will get there, and how they will give back once they do.

Once you know Jaz's history, you gain a greater appreciation for Red@28th. The space is designed to promote literacy and build camaraderie. Large tables encourage sharing and meeting new people. The vintage decorations were all hand chosen by Jaz to make you feel like you are sitting in your grandmother's living room. The food, the drinks, and the hookah are all there for a purpose: to encourage and promote community.

Jaz is a humble man. His life and his journey are an open book. No question was off limits. He is a true inspiration.

A single book changed his life, it empowered him to make changes, and it gave him the trust in himself and encouragement to give back. Now, through his multi-cultural literacy lounge, he hopes to bring unity and positive change to the community. ■



# Dilworth Eats

## Fiamma Ristorante: 15 Years as a Dilworth fixture

By Laurel Nakkas

Tradition is the name of the game for long-established, family-run Italian restaurant Fiamma Ristorante in the Park Square Shopping Center.

For 15 years, the Campoverde family has remained true to the restaurant's original roots, serving their signature northern Italian-inspired classics in an upscale setting with elegant touches like white tablecloths, complementary bread service and sorbet palate cleansers.

Fernando Campoverde, the founder, owner, and, on most nights, head chef, was first inspired by Italian culture during his



upbringing in a heavily Italian-influenced community in Ecuador. His son Luiggi describes his father's background as the classic immigrant story – a humble, hard-working beginning in the back of house in Italian kitchens all over New York.

*"In the famous letter that Anthony Bourdain penned [about cooks], he mentions there's a lot of immigrant groups. And one of the immigrant groups that he mentions are the Ecuadorians,"* said Luiggi. *"[Like referenced in that letter], my father eventually worked his way up, and he grinded a lot to be a sous-chef and eventually oversee a lot of the operations."*

It's from this experience that Fernando learned all about preparing Italian cuisine, fell in love with the northern Italian style and decided he would someday go into business on his own. Charlotte fit the bill due to its family-friendly feel. In 2005, the Campoverdes made the move from the Northeast, opening Fiamma shortly after.

The restaurant's northern Italian style can be characterized by olive oil-based sauces, heavy use of red wine for marinades and ingredients like porcini mushrooms, cannellini beans and

cheeses sourced from the Italian regions of Parma, Piedmont and Tuscany. And while you won't find Americanized dishes such as spaghetti and meatballs or chicken parmesan on the menu (though you can request them), you will find true homemade northern Italian classics.

Customer favorites include the burrata cheese platter; the fiocchetti pasta stuffed with cream and pears; gnocchi con salsiccia, or potato dumplings with sausage; tagliolini ai gamberi, a pasta with shrimp in a creamy cognac sauce; and the pappardelle alla bolognese, a larger pasta with meat sauce.

*"We make the best bolognese from the region of Bologna,"* said Fernando. *"We cook for 10 hours in the oven with all the veggies – carrots, celery, onions, rosemary, sage – and a lot of red wine."*

And of course, any good Italian restaurant would be remiss not to include the most popular of all Italian desserts.

*"I'm just going to flat out say it, I think we've got some of the best tiramisu that Charlotte's got to offer,"* said Luiggi.

Luiggi oversees management duties for the restaurant – a role he took on shortly before COVID struck. Like most restaurants, Fiamma has endured a fair share of challenges due to the pandemic and is still working to recover to pre-COVID numbers. Since Fiamma is family run, the Campoverdes initiated a mask mandate before Charlotte did to ensure their own safety. Luiggi admits this decision didn't sit well with everyone.

---

**"A lot of people weren't happy when we were implementing the mask rules,"** said Luiggi. **"We all kind of live under one house, and so we walked a much riskier, tighter line, a higher risk than others."**

---

Additionally, with a smaller staff since COVID, the Campoverdes have had to temporarily amend some seating policies – something Luiggi describes as a firm yet fair policy that he hopes customers will understand.

*"When it comes to say, a large party of eight, we don't seat until everyone's arrived. And then we only hold the reservation for up to 15 minutes,"* said Luiggi. *"A lot of that, due to us having a low staff in the kitchen, just is heavily reliant on the pacing."*

Despite COVID-related challenges, Luiggi is looking forward to taking steps to make Fiamma a more recognizable name in a changing Charlotte.

*"For better or for worse, we relatively have stayed the exact same since we opened in 2006. And Charlotte is not 2006,"* said Luiggi. *"So many times, we get people who've been here for the first time and they're like, 'Hey, I've been going to Ru San's since I've been here for the last 10 years. I had no idea that you guys were even on the map.'"*



A Fiamma customer favorite: Pappardelle alla Bolognese.



A classic tiramisu.

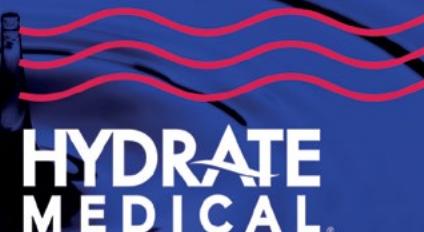
Luiggi wants to specifically target the more outgoing millennial crowd with a trendier ambiance and new menu items like sangrias, pizzas, and a reinstated charcuterie offering – bolstered by plenty of social media marketing. He also hopes to eventually restore lunch service, which was shuttered during COVID, but this time with a focus on quick, lighter offerings like Florentine-style sandwiches.

Looking to the future, one thing's certain for 15-year-old Fiamma: their northern Italian flair is tried and true for Dilworth diners. While Fernando attributes their success to a higher power, Luiggi also attributes it to the food itself – a labor of love carefully perfected through his father's years of hard work, all starting from those early days in New York kitchens.

*"I think that Charlotte, now, more than ever, you can be successful and not have great food. We've got the food factor locked down,"* said Luiggi. *"Someone up there is looking out for us, and we got really great food. We've been here for 15 years, you know. The food speaks for itself."* ■

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# Putting the 'Dilworth' in the Dilworth Soup Kitchen

By Gary Klasen, DSK Volunteer

The Dilworth Soup Kitchen relies on the time and talents of volunteers from in and around Dilworth.

Here are the thoughts of Dilworth resident volunteers on what the organization means to them.

## Anne Gildea

I began to volunteer sporadically in 2016 while on the Dilworth Cares committee. I was blown away by the dedication of the volunteers and their commitment to the mission. I fell in love with absolutely everything from the camaraderie between the guests and volunteers to the fun, lighthearted atmosphere where practical jokes and kidding are par for the course.

## Patricia Joslin

Now that I'm retired, I have time and energy (most days) to be a blessing to others. DSK is a special ministry, providing a safety net for those who need a leg up. Food insecurity is a significant issue here in Charlotte. When I volunteer, I feel like I'm one more strand of the safety net that supports those in need.

## Peggy Sirk

The joy of working with good, fun, and all around awesome people with a shared mission goes without saying. An even more

valuable reward is the connection and deeper understanding of those we serve – people struggling to survive some incredibly tough times in their lives - those who I once, sadly, might have avoided or disregarded. It has been enlightening.

## Carol Hicks

I work in the kitchen with smart, energetic, creative people who set the menus and are tireless in their time and energy every week, providing meals for those in need. Prior to Covid, we were serving a sit-down meal and that was a wonderful experience to interact with our guests.

## Bob Beach

I started with DSK back in 2010 cleaning pots and pans. I like getting to cook hundreds of meals each week. I also like it because it keeps me out of trouble, but it does give me sore feet.

## Jolin McElroy

During the 21 years I've been First Christian Church pastor, one of my great joys has been our partnership with DSK and its ongoing work. Their volunteers have become a little community of family. Our guests have challenged us to see the world through new eyes.

continued on page 18



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Contact Isabel Roberts at 704.607.5560



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# Historic District Commission

## How to Achieve Energy Efficiency in Historic Homes

By Cindy Kochanek

It's that time of year again. Wintertime. Does this time of year mean you need to break out your hat and mittens even inside the house? Or perhaps trying to cool your house over the summer was detrimental to your pocketbook?

Either way, there are many affordable ways to make your historic structure more comfortable and energy efficient.

The good news is your historic windows and doors do not need to go. Doors and windows are not actually where the major heat loss occurs in structures. It happens through the roof, walls, ducts, and fireplaces at 20-40% per item for heat loss.

**An energy audit can verify where your heat loss is occurring.** Not sure where to start? Energy.gov can help you get started.

A major way to combat heat loss is insulation. Not the spray foam that keeps expanding, potentially damaging surrounding materials, but rather traditional insulation like loose fill, rolls, or batts. Attic floors and crawl spaces are also major sources of heat loss that benefit from insulation. However, be careful with historic houses because insulating everything, especially the walls, has the potential to cause future issues. Historic houses were meant to breathe. Adding insulation to the walls may trap moisture and prevent proper air flow. If this all sounds daunting, consult a contractor familiar with historic structures and proper forms of insulation for them.

Back to those windows and doors, only about 10-15% of heat loss occurs in either of those areas. Because of the high replacement cost, you may need to retain them for more than 30 years to see return on your investment and recoup your initial cost. Some of those replacements will not last that long.

Old growth wood in historic windows lasts much longer than new growth wood used in new wood windows. Vinyl and other alternative materials will typically render a different appearance than wood and because of different expansion and contraction rates between the new material and the surrounding wood framing, they have the potential to cause damage. Simpler and

more cost-effective solutions for windows and doors include weatherstripping, adding storm windows and doors, and minor repairs such as replacing or installing sash locks, frame repair, and caulking and putty replacement. Storm windows are available for either the interior or exterior of windows and in conjunction with existing historic windows, they are just as or even more efficient than a replacement window. The return on investment for storm windows is closer to 5 years and even less time is needed to recoup the amount spent on weatherstripping and other minor repairs.

Another way to help is passively with landscaping. Those large old growth trees that we are all so fond of in Charlotte will help. They provide shade in the summer and when they drop their leaves in the fall, they let the sunlight through to provide warmth in the winter. Now that we are on the topic of sunlight, did you know that solar panels have been approved in historic districts? Next quarter's article will cover solar panels and other forms of alternative energy.

Feel free to contact HDC staff if you have any questions on specifics relating to energy efficiency or any other questions or concerns regarding the Dilworth Local Historic District.

HDC staff can be reached via email at charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov. Check out our social media posts on Facebook and Instagram @cltplanning. ■

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# Soup Kitchen

continued from Page 13

## Suzanne Sigmon

This is my own small way to help relieve heartbreaking hunger in a city/country where no one should be suffering from it. The thanks we get from our guests is worth every minute. We also make a contribution by doing away with food waste and with non-biodegradable trash in landfills.

## Jimmy & Christie Flowers

Christie and I are short timers as DSK volunteers, but we aren't the first in our family. My mother (Jimmy's) was a volunteer until age 92, followed by my brother and sister. It seems Christie and I were destined to take our places sooner or later!

Our time at Dilworth Soup Kitchen is the most fulfilling part of our week. We're both retired so finding a meaningful outlet for our time and energy has been a powerful motivation as part of this wonderful organization that gives so much back to our home community.

## Marcia Rowse

I got involved when Dilworth Cares selected DSK as our 2016 non-profit recipient. Recently, I started helping in the kitchen. I love to cook and I love the fellowship, helping to feed people.



**Learn more about the mission of Dilworth Soup Kitchen as well as how you can volunteer and join the DSK family at [dilworthsoupkitchen.org](http://dilworthsoupkitchen.org).**

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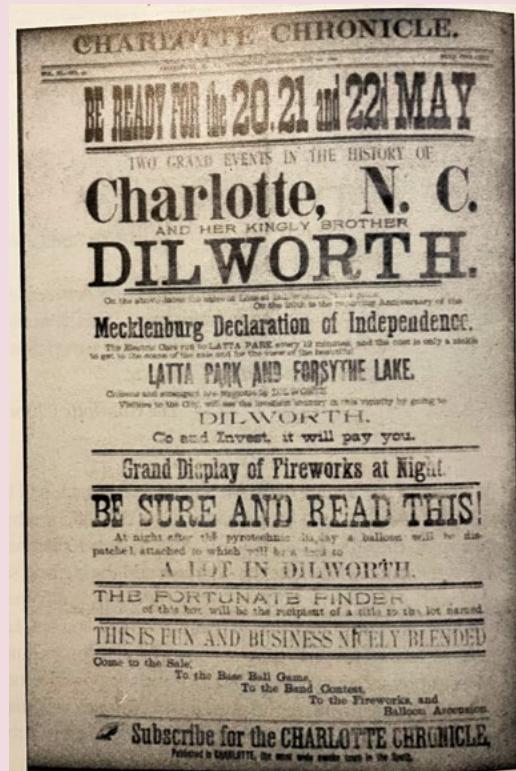
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# Did You Know?

## Dilworth's "Grand Opening" was May 20, 1891

In honor of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775, the 20th of May had long been Charlotte's big day. Taking advantage of the holiday's crowds and festive spirit, the 4Cs (the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company formed by Edward Dilworth Latta and his partners that shaped much of Dilworth's beginnings) picked May 20, 1891 to launch their new suburban town of Dilworth. Dilworth's initial grid of streets had been laid out. Latta Park had been attracting visitors all spring and generating newspaper articles on its quiet beauty.



Most importantly, the rails were in place and the power turned on for the new electric streetcar that would link Dilworth to the city. The streetcar was essential to the suburb, but the amusement park was essential to attracting enough riders in the early years to pay for the trolley system ... To boost the opening day crowd, the 4Cs arranged a championship baseball game between teams from Winston in North Carolina and Columbia in South Carolina, provided free lunch on the grounds during the auction of lots, and planned a \$1,000 fireworks show for the evening. The news reported that 4,600 people rode the electric cars that day.

- Excerpted from *Dilworth: The First 100 Years*, written by Tom Bradbury



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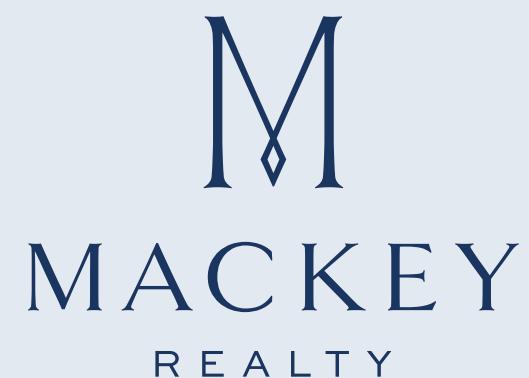
# Thank you to the Dilworth community!

I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Dilworth community for your continued confidence, support, and most importantly, your friendship throughout the year.

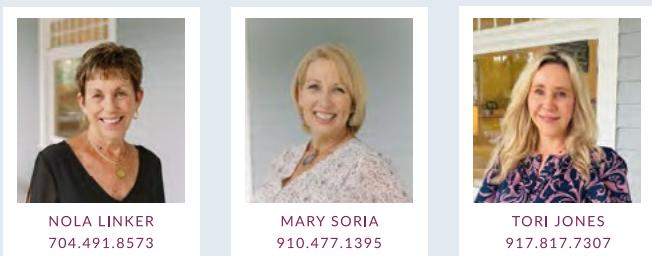
I've been helping buyers and sellers in Dilworth for over 12 years, and I understand that every home is unique.

If you're wondering if now is a good time to buy or sell, have questions about today's real estate market, or simply want to chat, give me a call today. I'm here for you!

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# Neighborhood Environment

## Dilworth Volunteers Making Progress in Latta Park

By Nancy Nicholson

Slowly but surely, volunteers from our neighborhood and others are making progress against our goal of *'Making Latta More Appealing to Wildlife and People.'*

We continue to remove invasive plants such as Privet, Porcelain Berry, and Stilt Grass which cover up essential plants needed by wildlife. Others, such as Japanese Honeysuckle and English Ivy can take over tree tops causing damage and even pull down trees. Our goal is to replace invasives with native plants which offer more nutrition to birds and wildlife.

Now, we get to enjoy the beauty of native Hydrangeas, Button Bush, Fringe Trees, Beauty Berry, Coneflowers, Ageratum, and Milkweed, and others. Latta is abundant with many plants in the pollinator garden; in our main planting areas near Park Road and Park Ave.; along both sides the stream near the picnic area (Romany side); near the Park Ave. side of the amphitheater; and near all the entrances to wooded parts of the park.

*Making Latta More Appealing to Wildlife and People* also means controlling erosion. Naturally occurring erosion wipes away topsoil and nutrients, are a safety hazard, and is just plain ugly. During this fall and winter, we will get help from Mecklenburg Park and Recreation with erosion control plus invasive removal.

You may have observed two invasive specialists from Nashville-based Invasive Plant Control removing plants in the Latta



Mecklenburg Park and Recreation will soon be investing to enact better erosion control (as seen here) in Latta Park.

Park Extension behind St. Patrick's church and school. If this goes well (we are optimistic) they will come back next year to do further work in what most of us consider Latta Park Main. Temporary fencing was added and mulching and seeding was completed in some of the worst eroded areas in the park.

We can thank our county commissioners that have supported our efforts and for the following increases in park and greenway funding in 2022. These investments have made Mecklenburg County a leader in environmental accomplishments.

### Highlights include:

- \$743,000 for invasive removal
- \$5M for parks equity with focus on failing parks
- \$75,000 for Youth Conservation Corp to employ and educate youth during the summer by working in the county parks and greenways
- \$20M for land acquisition

Thanks for the support we receive from the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department, our many volunteers and as noted above, our County Commissioners. It takes a village. ■



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# Our Kids

## An Update from Dilworth Elementary School

By Principal Rebecca Crawford

On August 23, the Dilworth staff greeted families at our yearly Open House event. It had been 528 days since parents last stepped foot in the school buildings. As the doors opened, and the walls of our buildings absorbed the giggles and gasps, a feeling of excitement filled the hallways.

Parents and students moved quickly to their classrooms to meet their teachers and admire their beautiful classrooms. Everyone was thrilled to be back into the building and hopeful for a normal school year.

During the first few weeks of school, teachers focused on welcoming students, getting to know each other and establishing routines and procedures. Guidance counselors, along with our teachers, continued to focus on the academic and social/emotional needs of our students.

**Every classroom continues to begin with a morning meeting where students greet their peers, share facts about themselves, and prepare for a full day of learning.**

Students are supported throughout the school day through Dining with Direction small groups, monthly guidance lessons, and google forms to share concerns and worries. Academically, we continue to monitor our instruction and focus on students and their various needs.

We have incorporated several new programs to both accelerate and remediate students appropriately. We are excited that all of our first grade students will participate in the YET academy this year. These lessons will occur with our Talent Development teacher and focus on engaging our students in rigorous, above grade level, problem solving lessons and texts.

During the first quarter of school our students participated in Dragon House meetings, where students sang cheers and the school celebrated our Dragons being "On Fire." The students were so excited to have this event that their chants could be

heard around the building. In addition, our Fifth grade students went to the White Water center for a fun-filled team building day. And finally, all students participated in our SPARK assembly where we were able to pass out prizes to celebrate the work our Dragons did over the summer.

Students received gift cards to Michaels, TCBY, Target and more! All of these events were made possible by the generous donations to our Tip the Scales and SPARK fundraising events. We are so very thankful to our supportive community of parents.

Thank you for your continued partnership, it is going to be a great year! ■

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# Tom Sykes

## Recreation Center

Compiled by Shauna Powell

### **Pre-registration is required for all programs.**

Register online at [parkandrec.com](http://parkandrec.com), by calling Tom Sykes Recreation Center at (980)314-1113, or stop by the center.

For more information about all of Tom Sykes Recreation Center programs contact [TomsykesRecreationCenter@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:TomsykesRecreationCenter@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).

### **Preschool Programs**

#### **Music Together of Charlotte**

Music Together is children and their grownups joyfully sharing songs, rhymes, movement, and instrument play, both in music class and in their daily lives. A pioneer in early childhood music and movement education, Music Together offers classes in which parents and caregivers actively participate.

When: Monday - Saturday

Ages: 8 months - 5 years

Contact: [musictogetherofcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:musictogetherofcharlotte@gmail.com)

### **After School Programs**

Days: Monday - Friday

Time: 3:00pm-6:00pm

Ages: 5-12 years

Pricing: \$7.00 per class

Registration Deadline for Spring: February 1

Please email:[tomsykesrecreationcenter@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:tomsykesrecreationcenter@mecklenburgcountync.gov) for the form with programs listed.

*You do not have to attend Dilworth or Sedgefield Schools to participate – all are welcome!*

### **CMS School Day Out & Early Release Day Camps**

Call for specific dates.

School Day Out: \$25.00 per child (9am-6pm)

Early Release Day: \$15.00 per child (12pm-6pm)

*Please call for specific dates.*

### **Youth Programs**

#### **Basketball Lessons – Private/Group Lessons**

Whether your player(s) is new to the game or is looking to work on specific skills and techniques to enhance their basketball game, private and group lessons at Tom Sykes Recreation Center will help them achieve the goals they set! Call 980-314-1113 to schedule an appointment.

Ages: 5-12 years

Pricing: \$15.00/hr

#### **Youth Volleyball – Private/Group Lessons**

Whether your player(s) is new to the game or is looking to work on specific skills and techniques to enhance their volleyball game, private and group lessons at Tom Sykes Recreation Center will help them achieve the goals they set!

Call 980-314-1113 to schedule an appointment

\*Availability based on gym schedule

Ages: 8-17 years

Pricing: \$15.00/hr

#### **Game Night - One Night Only!**

Come by Tom Sykes for an evening of fun! We will take care of your kids and play a variety of board games while you enjoy a date night out. Contact Tom Sykes Recreation Center for more information by calling or emailing us, 980-314-1113 or [tomsykesrecreationcenter@mecknc.gov](mailto:tomsykesrecreationcenter@mecknc.gov)

Ages: 5-11years

Pricing: \$4.00

Registration: Ongoing

When: Dec. 9

Time: 6:00pm-7:45pm

### **All Age Programs**

#### **Biking Lessons**

From complete beginner to experienced cyclist, we can help you to accomplish your goals. Road biking? Let our certified cycling instructor show you the safest way to maneuver the streets. Mountain biking? Allow us to help you make your trail rides safer and a lot more fun. Call 980-314-1113 to schedule a lesson!

Pricing: Free

#### **Badminton**

Pickup games weekday nights from 5:30-7:30. Three courts available. All ages and skill levels. Call for availability.

Pricing: \$2.00 Adults • Free for youth

### **Adult Programs**

#### **Ping Pong**

Join in pickup games. Three courts available at a time! All skill levels welcome!

Every Wednesday beginning October 20

Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Ages: 18+ years

Pricing: Free • Registration: Ongoing



### **Facility Staff**

Gabe Hackney

Facility Manager

Shauna Powell

Recreation Specialist

Tim Lewis

Recreation Specialist

Toni Batts

Recreation Assistant

Allan Safdie

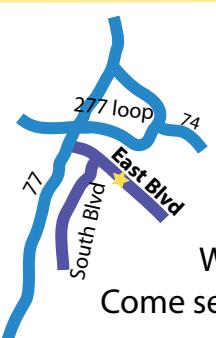
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Donovan Tillman

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Geraldine Williams

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## Help Fill the Gaps : Dilworth's Tree Canopy Fundraiser

By Liz Lewis

The DCA's Share the Shade tree fundraiser is wrapping up soon, so if you haven't donated yet, there's still time! Donate today.

This is Dilworth's third tree planting campaign. So far, we've planted 55 additional shade trees along our neighborhood streets, have advocated for the City adding almost 100 street trees around Dilworth.

We have also given back by donating some of the funds from last year's fundraiser to the Revolution Park neighborhood to help them protect and preserve their mature tree canopy.

*Thanks to all who have already donated!*

We want to do more this year and leave a green legacy for future generations, which is why we need your financial contributions. To learn more about the campaign, go to [dilworthonline.org](http://dilworthonline.org)



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**A shade tree with an average 2 1/2 - 3" diameter trunk costs almost \$700 to source, transport, plant, guarantee and water for the first year.**

**New this year:** Those who donate at least \$700 to the fundraiser, we will recognize your donation next year via a GIFT TAG that goes on one of the trees that you've helped plant this year during the fundraising season. This can be a donor name, a family recognition, a memoriam, etc. For those who give a tree, we'll contact you after the fundraiser to get the info for next year's Gift Tag.

To learn more about the *Share the Shade* campaign, visit [dilworthonline.org](http://dilworthonline.org)

**Donations for 2021 will be accepted through 12/15. Contributions after that date will be welcome and will apply to the 2022 Tree Canopy Fundraising Campaign.**

Here's how to donate:

Write a check to the DCA - Trees and mail it

c/o 830 E Park Ave., Charlotte 28203

Send a Venmo payment to @Treasurer-DCA

Pay with a credit card by going to the DCA website, [dilworthonline.org](http://dilworthonline.org).

# Dilworth Cares Street Challenge A Big Success

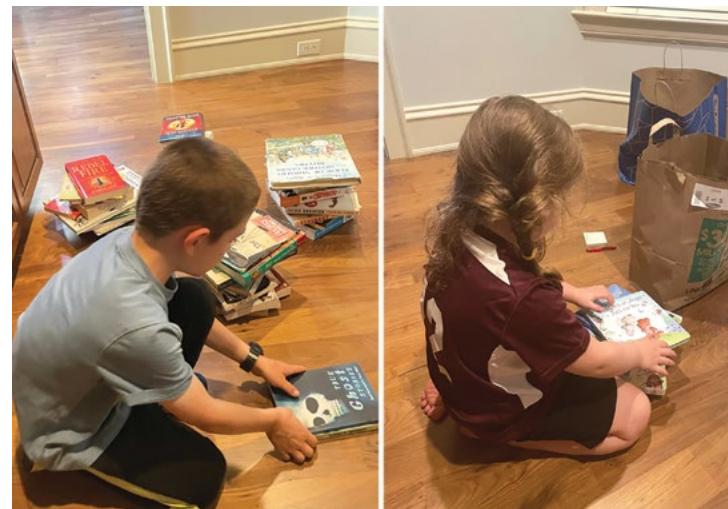
By Jenny Morton

The spirit of doing good is alive and well in Dilworth! This Fall, Dilworth Cares issued our first ever "Street Challenge" to benefit several area nonprofits and our neighborhood answered the call.

**Promising Pages** collects new and donated books to distribute to students and organizations, providing a free resource to those who most need it.

## Event: Carlton Avenue support of BooktoberFest

The Ritzer family set up a spot on their front porch for the drop off of gently used or new pre-K through high school books. Graham and Sydney eagerly looked for boxes of books on the porch after school each day. More than 250 books were collected and dropped off!



Graham and Sydney Ritzer eagerly looked for boxes of books after school each day and enjoyed counting and labeling every box and bag as they arrived.

**Freedom School Partners** changes the future for under-resourced students by giving them three life-changing tools: literacy skills, character strengths, and a community that believes in them.

## Event: Arosa Ave and Dilworth Road Supplies Drive

School supplies were collected and delivered to support the summer program run by FSP. Several boxes were received as well as over \$300 in donations.

**Crisis Assistance Ministry** provides assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency. Their vision is to inspire the community to justice and generosity as they provide help, hope, and understanding.

## Event: Kingston Ave Block Party and Lemonade Stand

Neighbors came together in July for a front porch party and bake off. Fun was had by all. \$250 was raised.

**Sedgefield Middle School** provides a responsive school environment and culture nurturing social, emotional, and academic skills to achieve each student's full potential.

**Event:** Upcoming event to support children in need.

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                  12pm-5pm

**Faith, Hope and Love** mentors students K - Elementary in all academic areas as well character building and life skills. They also assist parents by providing programming including cooking classes, financial classes, parent classes and Bible Study.

## Event: Dilworth Road Bakesale/ Happy Hour/ BBQ

Tables were loaded and was well attended by neighbors old and new. \$555 raised plus more that was donated online.



Over \$555 was raised for Faith, Hope and Love at the Dilworth Road Bakesale/ Happy Hour/ BBQ.



The Relatives strives to keep kids safe and families together. At the Charlotte Drive Porch Celebration, nine bags of items from The Relatives Wish List were collected as well \$550 in monetary donations.



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## Are You Our Next Editor?

Here is your opportunity to play a significant role in our community's affairs. Dilworth Quarterly is currently looking for a new Editor.

The job requires a few hours of focused effort only four times a year. Very little writing is required, unless you want to!

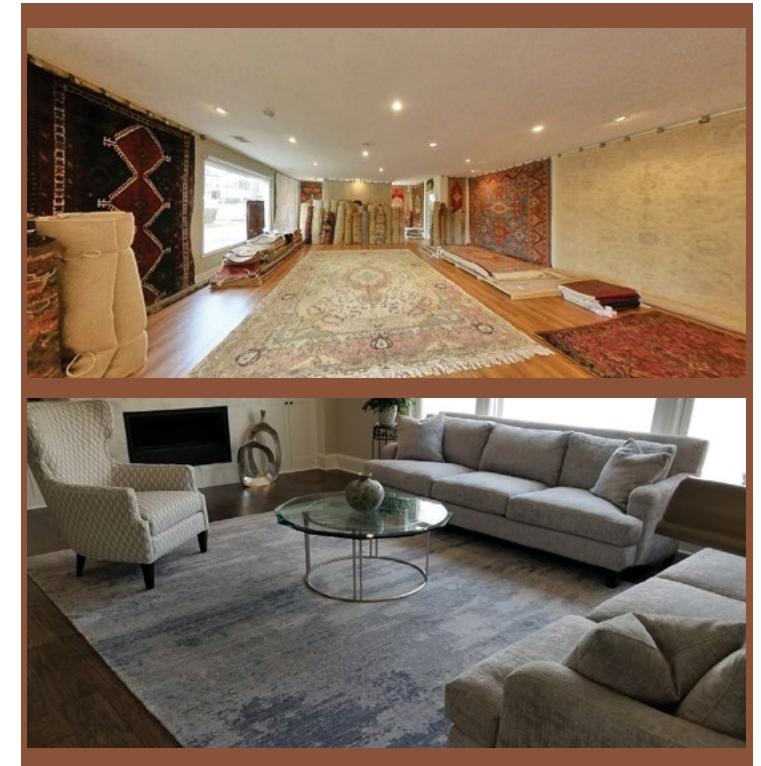
### Editor Responsibilities Include:

- Story ideas
- Enlisting new contributors
- Working with contributors to ensure they meet set deadlines
- Editing text and proofing of newsletter
- Working with artist to ensure sufficient content is available

This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to gain editorial experience. The Editor oversees a magazine sent to nearly 6,000 business and residential addresses in Dilworth.

If interested, please contact Tom Ferber at [ferbertj@gmail.com](mailto:ferbertj@gmail.com) or Nikki Campo at [nikki.campo@gmail.com](mailto:nikki.campo@gmail.com). We're happy to answer any questions. ■

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